

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.       A method for implementing device regionalization, comprising:  
2           identifying a region code;  
3           establishing a region for a device relative to the identified region code; and  
4           presenting information to a device user about components that can be used  
5           with the device relative to the established region.
  
- 1           2.       The method of claim 1, wherein identifying a region code comprises  
2           reading a region code embedded into a device component.
  
- 1           3.       The method of claim 1, wherein identifying a region code comprises  
2           reading a region code embedded into a print cartridge that is installed within the  
3           device.
  
- 1           4.       The method of claim 1, wherein establishing a region comprises  
2           storing the identified region code in device memory.
  
- 1           5.       The method of claim 4, wherein establishing a region further comprises  
2           locking the region code for the device.

1           6.       The method of claim 4, wherein locking the region code comprises  
2       determining the number of pages that have been printed by the device and locking the  
3       region code if the number of pages reaches a predetermined threshold.

1           7.       The method of claim 1, wherein presenting information comprises  
2       providing the region code to a user computer.

1           8.       The method of claim 7, wherein presenting information further  
2       comprises accessing a database that cross-references the region code with components  
3       available for the device so as to limit presentation to information concerning  
4       components intended for use in the established region.

1           9.       The method of claim 1, wherein providing the region code comprises  
2       providing the region code to a device driver that executes on the user computer and  
3       wherein accessing a database comprises accessing the database with the device driver.

1           10.      A system for implementing device regionalization, comprising:  
2           means for reading a region code embedded within a device component;  
3           means for providing the region code to a user computer; and  
4           means for presenting component information to a device user on the user  
5       computer that identifies components that are available for the device in a region  
6       indicated by the region code.

1           11.     The system of claim 10, wherein the means for reading a region code  
2     comprise means for reading a region code from a device component when the  
3     component is installed in the device.

1           12.     The system of claim 10, wherein the means for providing the region  
2     code comprise means for providing the region code to a device driver that executes on  
3     the user computer.

1           13.     The system of claim 10, wherein the means for presenting component  
2     information comprise means for accessing a database that cross-references the region  
3     code with components available for the device so as to limit presentation of  
4     information to information concerning components intended for use in the established  
5     region.

1           14.     The system of claim 10, further comprising means for locking a region  
2     code for the device.

1           15.     The system of claim 14, wherein the means for locking the region code  
2     comprise means for determining the number of pages that have been printed and  
3     comparing that number with a predetermined threshold.

1           16.     A system stored on a computer readable medium, comprising:  
2           logic for reading a region code from a device component installed in a device;  
3           logic configured to store the read region code;  
4           logic configured to provide the stored region code to a device driver that  
5 executes on a user computer; and  
6           logic configured to determine components that are available for use with the  
7 device in relation to the region code.

1           17.     The system of claim 16, wherein the logic configured to store is further  
2 configured to lock the region code on the device.

1           18.     The system of claim 16, wherein the logic configured to store is  
2 configured to lock the region code after a predetermined number of pages have been  
3 printed by the device.

1           19.     The system of claim 16, wherein logic configured to provide the region  
2 code is configured to provide the region code to the device driver when the device  
3 driver communicates with the device to send the device a print job.

1           20.     The system of claim 16, wherein the logic configured to determine  
2 components is configured to identify the components from a database using the region  
3 code and a device model.

1           21.     A region identification system stored on a computer-readable medium,  
2     the system comprising:  
3           logic configured to read a region code from an encoded component installed  
4     within a device;  
5           logic configured to store the read region code; and  
6           logic configured to provide the stored region code to a device driver that  
7     executes on a user computer.

1           22.     The system of claim 21, further comprising logic configured to lock the  
2     region code for the device after a predetermined criterion is satisfied.

1           23.     The system of claim 22, wherein the logic configured to lock the region  
2     code is configured to lock the region code after a predetermined number of pages have  
3     been printed by the device.

1           24.     A device, comprising:  
2           a processing device; and  
3           memory including a region identification system that is configured to read a  
4     region code from an encoded component installed within a device, store the read  
5     region code, and provide the stored region code to a device driver that executes on a  
6     user computer.

1           25.     The device of claim 24, wherein the region identification system is  
2 further configured to lock the region code for the device after a predetermined  
3 criterion is satisfied.

1           26.     The device of claim 25, wherein the region identification system is  
2 configured to lock the region code after a predetermined number of pages have been  
3 printed by the device.

1           27.     A device driver stored on a computer-readable medium, the driver  
2 comprising:

3           a component identification module that is configured to receive a region code  
4 from a device that is controlled by the device driver, access a database using the  
5 region code and a device model to determine the components that are available for the  
6 device in a region represented by the region code, and identify the determined  
7 components to a device user.

1           28.     The device driver of claim 27, wherein the component identification  
2 module is configured to identify a part or order number to the device user.